Scientific Unit Backs RFK Probe

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By Jim Morice
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ST. LOUIS, July 13— Further investigation of the June, 1968, slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) "could be of value in clarifying circumstances" of the presidential candidate's death, a resolution adopted today by the executive committee of the National Academy of Forensic Sciences says.

While officials of the group declined further comment on the brief resolution, sources said it followed the presentation of an ad hoc committee report based on testimony given at the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, convicted murderer of Kennedy, photographic evidence and other documents.

Of central importance in the ad hoc committee's report is a controversy over ballistic evidence concerning the shooting, sources said.

"The executive committee of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences has reviewed a committee report related to the Robert F. Kennedy assassination, and concluded that a re-examination of the physical evidence in the case could provide additional information which could be of value in clarifying the circumstances of the death of Robert F. Kennedy,' reads the resolution, which academy members called a public pronouncement.

The academy represents more than 1,500 forensic scientists in 10 disciplines. Members have participated in investigations of the deaths of actresses Marilyn Monroe and Sharon Tate and Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, said Dr. Robert J. Joling, a Tucson physician who is president of the academy.

The ad hoc committee, which reportedly began its work in March, was chaired by Ralph Turner of Michigan State University.

Kennedy was shot June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles while passing through the hotel kitchen on the way to a news conference. He was felled by bullets allegedly fired from a .22-caliber pistol carried by Sirhan. Sirhan was convicted of first-degree murder.

Last January, Sirhan's attorney, Godfrey Isaac, filed a writ before the California Supreme Court to reopen the case, on alleged new ballistics evidence. Isaacs said then that new evidence showed more then the eight bullets in Sirhan's gun were fired at the scene of the assassination.